

Every night, millions of children around the world go to sleep hungry.



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Liberia: soaring food prices put people at risk of malnutrition

Global food crisis **8/9**

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Images from Nepal

In the isolated regions of Nepal, Action Against Hunger's teams nurture malnourished children back to health and work with local partners to integrate malnutrition into national child health programmes.



Struggling to cope with the volume of daily chores, many women do not have time to look after their children. The women work relentlessly, taking on household chores, working in the fields and collecting water.



A father entrusts his young son to a nutritionist at Action Against Hunger's feeding centre.



Bringing help to people living in the isolated regions of the Himalayan mountains presents a difficult logistical challenge and Action Against Hunger's teams have to cross the mountains to go from one village to the next.



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This publication is an Action Against Hunger UK publication which aims to inform our supporters of the ongoing activities and programmes implemented by the ACF International Network.

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Editorial



Jean Michel Grand
Executive Director,
Action Against
Hunger UK

In April 2008 riots erupted in many cities of the world because of increasing food prices. The United Nations estimates that 75 million people fell into extreme poverty within the last eight months due to this crisis alone.

I was in Zambia two weeks ago visiting our local partner's programmes that assist hundreds of orphans. I met two grandmothers, who lost their children to HIV/AIDS and are left alone to take care of their grandchildren. They have no work, receive no pension, have no savings or assets, no relative to help them and just a little garden. The price of their main

staple food, cornflower, increased from £9 per bag of 25kg to £15 in less than 10 months. How do they survive? Their only option left is begging and relying on assistance from NGOs such as Action Against Hunger and the local community. However, this is not enough. The future for them and their grand children looks bleak.

At the same time in New York our leaders met to assess the progress made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Despite the usual self congratulations, this objective has already been relegated to the realms of wishful thinking.

Governments committed several years ago to give 0.7% of their GDP to achieve these goals yet most of them, including the UK, are still unable to live up to their word.

At least there is one certainty: Action Against Hunger and you, our loyal supporters, have a clear priority: ending child hunger and helping thousands of families to restore their livelihoods and their dignity.

It is a difficult time for all of us, but more so for the already vulnerable. We need to show our solidarity to these children and show them that the world has not forgotten their plight.

Your support is important now more than ever!

Thank you.

Focus

Action Against Hunger mobilises emergency response to crisis in Haiti

Since Mid-August, Haiti, the Western hemisphere's poorest country, has been struck by four successive hurricanes. Hundreds of people were killed by mudslides and floods caused by torrential rains and heavy winds, leaving people without shelter, food and water. Much of the city of Gonaives is still difficult to access, as flooding is widespread and infrastructure destroyed.

Action Against Hunger has been working in north-western Haiti since 2004 on water, sanitation and nutrition projects, and in recent days has supplied water to the population of the city of Port-de-Paix. Members of the emergency team, along with logisticians and water and sanitation specialists have joined staff in Haiti, in order to increase aid

efforts and provide assistance to affected populations in Gonaives as quickly as possible.

Several years ago, Action Against Hunger established a local emergency plan in Haiti to facilitate a fast response and the distribution of supplies in the event of natural disasters, especially hurricanes which occur all too often in this region. Supplies including motor-pumps, flexible water pumps, water taps and treatment stations were stockpiled in Port-au-Prince and Port-de-Paix and much of this equipment has now been moved to Gonaives and other affected regions where it is needed most.



Liberia: soaring food prices put people at risk of malnutrition

Liberia has come a long way since the end of its long-running and devastating civil war which left the country's infrastructure in ruins and displaced hundreds of thousands of people. Four years after the end of the war, Liberians are now on their way towards recovery and a brighter future; yet huge needs remain. Action Against Hunger has been working in Liberia since 1991 and is helping the most vulnerable people reconstruct their lives and livelihoods from scratch.



At the feeding centre, malnourished children gradually regain their appetite and strength. When they are well enough they are transferred to the outpatient treatment programme.

In Monrovia, Action Against Hunger is currently working in partnership with the local NGO Aid for Needy Development Programme (ANDP) to implement nutrition and care programmes. These programmes include the treatment of severe acute malnutrition in children under five years old and activities aimed at the prevention of malnutrition. These programmes are kindly being supported by Carluccio's PLC (see page 15).

"The rising food prices make life harder for us," says Josephine, a mother of two. One of her children is suffering from severe malnutrition. Josephine knows exactly what she is talking about: at 35 years old, she has lived through the entire era of conflict in Liberia from 1989 until 2003 when she had to flee the capital Monrovia leaving everything behind.

When Josephine returned at the end of the war, she started her life all over again by working for one of her friends who had opened a small restaurant: *"I helped my friend prepare food and was hence able to put some food aside for my children and myself. This is how I started my life again. However today, I suffer more, even though there is peace: by buying milk for my baby I have less money to feed the rest of my family. The price of baby milk goes up every week."*

"Poverty is about to kill us here in Liberia"

Josephine's seven months old baby Koppo is refusing to be breast-fed. Instead she has to buy milk powder which she mixes with water. This presents dangers for the child, not least because the water in Monrovia is often unsuitable for drinking and can cause fatal illnesses. Josephine reduces the risk of contamination by boiling it, but it only takes one mistake. In Monrovia, parents often use a small amount of powder and mix it with a large amount of

water as they cannot always afford more milk powder. This not only increases the risk of contamination but also malnutrition.

"It's even more expensive than before!" says Josephine. *"I cannot afford to buy an entire carton of powdered milk. Instead I buy it in small portions from the market. Today, one helping of powdered milk, which is three days worth of food, costs between 100 and 150 Liberian dollars (approx. US\$ 1.50 and US\$ 2.30)."* Josephine, like the majority of Liberians, lives off less than one US dollar per day. *"In Liberia, the cost of living is extremely expensive: On average a housewife puts aside 50% of her budget for food and 25% for transport,"* explains Berengere, Action Against Hunger's Country Director.

A small increase in food prices can therefore have an immediate effect on households. Josephine is in a better situation than many because she owns a small shop that sells various products. As the shop is next to her house, she is able to work and look after her children at the same time. This is a luxury that many Liberian mothers cannot afford.

Mothers are often obliged to do small jobs to be able to send their children to school. Their husbands, normally the breadwinners of the family, are currently affected by the high rate of unemployment that affects 80-85% of the population.

A ravaged country, an economy in ruins

Liberia is one of the poorest countries worldwide. Progress is being made but much more needs to be done.

In 2006 President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf was elected, becoming Africa's first democratically elected female leader. Getting Liberia back on its feet is a challenging task given that violence and economic

TESTIMONY

Madison's recovery

18 years old Musso Flomo is the mother of Madison, a little boy suffering from severe malnutrition. Madison was suffering from severe malnutrition with medical complications. He was hospitalised in our feeding centre until he was well enough to be transferred to the Outpatient Treatment Programme. As a young mother, Musso doesn't know a lot about how to care for and feed her son. No one had advised her about the difficulties of being a mother. In the centre she is able to attend classes where mothers are taught how to take good care of their child. *"At the centre I learned how to prepare meals and the team explained to me the importance of being part of Madison's life as he grows up. Equally I have learned to always wash my hands before preparing and eating food to avoid contamination as well as always keeping flies and other insects away from food,"* explains Musso.

After a few weeks at the centre, Madison had regained his strength and was transferred to the Outpatient Treatment Programme. Today he is a healthy little boy and has completely recovered a zest for life.



Madison is severely malnourished. In the feeding centre, he is nurtured back to health.



Taken under the care of our feeding centre, Madison has been cared for, regained his weight and has completely recovered a zest for life.

collapse have taken a terrible toll on the population.

"For an estimated total population of 3.2 million people today, Liberia only has 122 doctors serving throughout the country, of which just 51 are Liberians," says Berengere. It is still essentially NGOs and international donors who are supporting Liberia's public health system.

Action Against Hunger has been present in the country since 1991, implementing nutrition, water and sanitation and food security programmes.

A great deal of agricultural land has been either abandoned or ravaged. Much of this is problem was due to the vast population movement from rural areas to the town

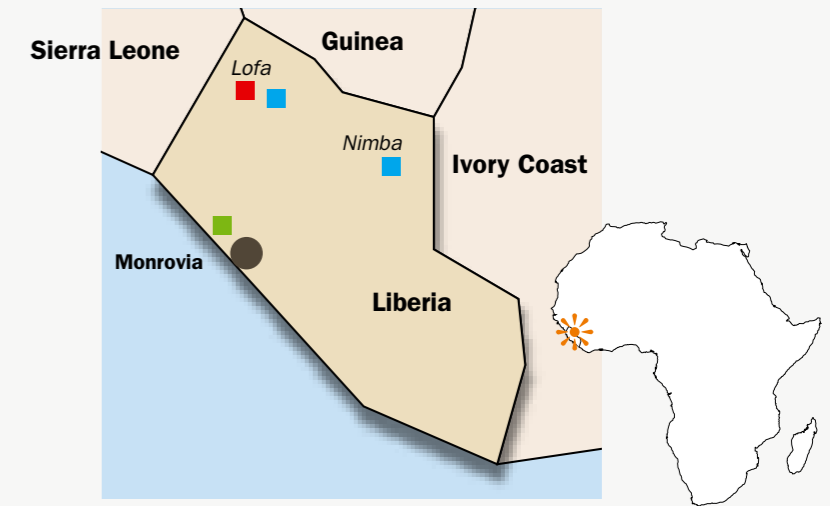
areas that took place during the war. The result is that Liberia currently imports 90% of its rice, the staple diet of the population. The country has been hit hard by global increases in the price of foodstuffs with few solutions to deal with the issue head on. "Action Against Hunger has launched programmes to resurrect rice fields and revive the production of rice amongst families. At the same time we help people return to their villages, launch agricultural activities and create grain reserves and cooperatives. The aim is to rehabilitate at least 35 % of the agricultural land in existence before the war within two and half years, in the areas we intervene," says Samuel, Action Against Hunger's Food Security Coordinator in Liberia.

12,500 children at risk

A recent nutritional survey carried out by Action Against Hunger showed disturbing results that indicate a significant nutritional crisis in Grand Monrovia with more than 12,500 children under five years of age at risk of severe acute malnutrition. Severely malnourished children are referred to the Therapeutic Feeding Centers (TFC) or Outpatient Treatment Programmes (OTP) run by Action Against Hunger and its local partner. The OTP provides effective care to the majority of acutely malnourished people as outpatients. This means that children with severe acute malnutrition without medical complications are

treated in an outpatient therapeutic programme with ready-to-use therapeutic food and routine medication. Those suffering from severe acute malnutrition with medical complications are treated in the Therapeutic Feeding Centre until they are well enough to be transferred to the OTP.

It is in one of the OTP's where Koppo, Josephine's baby, is being treated. Every Thursday, Koppo and her mother meet up at the collection point in the OTP where she is measured, weighed and examined in order to make sure she continues to put on weight. She also receives a ration of plumpy nut (a very nutritious peanut based paste) on a weekly basis. An extra food ration is given to Josephine to help feed the rest of the family. "The food I receive at the OTP helps me a great deal. My budget is still small but every little helps," says Josephine.



Our programmes

- Water and sanitation
- Nutrition and health
- Food security

Liberia

Population: 3.6 million inhabitants (2007)
Life expectancy: 44 years (2005)
GNP/capita: 130US\$



Once a week, carers and their severely malnourished children come to Action Against Hunger's outpatient treatment centre where they receive therapeutic food, medicine and food rations for their families.

© Veronique Burger / Phanie

TESTIMONY

The importance of transmitting skills

In spite of ongoing needs, Liberia is on its way to recovery. In addition to implementing nutritional activities, Action Against Hunger supports local NGO ANDP, which was founded by former ACF nutritionists, and local partners with capacity building activities with the aim of gradually handing over all nutrition activities to local partners. "It is time that Liberia took control of its destiny. During the war, international NGOs like Action Against Hunger were on the ground putting in place an effective aid system, but now, in spite of ongoing problems, we are experiencing an era of redevelopment and we must learn to manage this by ourselves," states William, the President of ANDP.

TESTIMONY

Addressing the causes of malnutrition

Malnutrition was already an important problem in Liberia before the global food crisis exacerbated the situation even further. As Alexandra, in charge of Action Against Hunger's nutrition programmes in Monrovia, states: "The lack of access to clean drinking water and sanitation, the high presence of diseases such as malaria, mothers not knowing about care practices, the fact that mothers often are very young and often undernourished, the cost of living, and the destroyed infrastructure as a consequence of the war... are all important causes of malnutrition. The war ended five years ago, but it will take a long time to rebuild the country. It is very important for us to help and do our best as an aid organisation to help people rebuild their lives."



Alexandra, in charge of Action Against Hunger's nutrition programmes in Monrovia, looks after malnourished children and their carers during their stay at the feeding centre.

© Veronique Burger / Phanie

Global food crisis: Do governments want to take on the challenge of hunger and malnutrition?

The headlines are distressing. Over the past several years, and particularly in recent months, food prices across the world have skyrocketed. With the worsening of this global food crisis, the issue of global hunger is back at the forefront of the global political agenda. Before the crisis hit the front pages, some 850 million people worldwide were already suffering from hunger. Soaring food prices have now plunged another 75 million people into hunger, increasing the number of hungry people worldwide to 925 million.

The massive increase in the prices of basic foodstuffs has had catastrophic consequences for populations all across the world, increasing the nutritional vulnerability of urban populations who are strongly dependent on imports; increasing the price of seeds which has rocked rural populations; and potentially reducing emergency food stockpiles. The increase in global food prices could also plunge large

sections of the urban middle-class, which have hitherto been spared, into food insecurity. And people who were previously vulnerable are being cornered by despair, and find themselves at elevated risk of malnutrition.

The prospect of the situation improving in the near future is bleak. We have undoubtedly not yet seen all the humanitarian consequences. In 2000, world leaders pledged to

reduce by half the proportion of people suffering from hunger worldwide by 2015. Half way to the 2015 deadline, this objective has already been relegated to the realms of wishful thinking.

From now on it is vital that we take firm steps to reinforce action against hunger and malnutrition on a global level. Solutions exist. Only political will and financial backing are needed.

In the short-term, the priority must be to respond to the urgent needs of the millions of people at immediate risk of malnutrition and to prevent malnutrition rates from soaring. "We need to prevent an immediate acute crisis. Our main priority is to prevent even more children plunging into malnutrition", comments Action Against Hunger's Executive Director Jean Michel Grand.

As the world is still searching for the best cause of action, Action Against Hunger appeals to donating countries to pledge more financial resources to address the global food crisis. States, donors, civil society, national and international NGOs, all need to mobilise their resources to address this crisis. 19 million children are already suffering from severe acute malnutrition. This figure is likely to increase unless we act now.

Action Against Hunger is launching an international campaign to mobilise resources and public opinion on ending child hunger. For your free action kit, please send an email to info@aa huk.org or call Ivan on 020 8293 6190.

FOCUS

Malnutrition: a public health problem in Burkina Faso

For the last fifteen years Burkina Faso has been considered self-sufficient in terms of food but, despite this, it was one of the first countries to be confronted by food riots in February 2008. In a country where a family devotes 55% of its income to food, two patterns are emerging. In some rural areas, a section of the population remains vulnerable to high malnutrition rates, as highlighted by Claire Ficini, Action Against Hunger's country director in Burkina Faso. "Food for Burkinabes essentially consists of cereals which can lead to nutritional deficiencies. Action Against Hunger has been present in Burkina Faso since February 2008 to address and prevent malnu-

trition in high risk areas, in particular by supporting the existing health organisations. Malnutrition has only recently been recognised as a health problem on a national scale". And in the urban environment, people are entirely dependent on imported products, such as milk and oil, which have seen an increase in price up to 70%.

Afghanistan: a country that has been seriously affected

Depending on imported foodstuffs for most of its supply, Afghanistan continues to be a food-insecure country due to recurring droughts, insecurity and the failure of communication networks.

Despite a good harvest in 2007, a strong increase in food prices,

of between 70% and 100%, has not helped the situation. "The dry season is about to begin and the harvest has been worse than last year," comments Bertrand Brequeville, Action Against Hunger's country director in Afghanistan.

In view of the global food crisis, Action Against Hunger is stepping up plans to effectively anticipate needs in the following months. In Hazaradjat in central Afghanistan, the organisation usually puts in place financial support programmes for the most vulnerable. However, this year Action Against Hunger will adapt its programmes to bring a more appropriate form of support in light of the increase in the price of foodstuffs.



In the urban areas of Afghanistan, the population is entirely dependent on imported goods, which have seen a 70% increase in price.



In Hazaradjat in Afghanistan we normally put financial support programmes in place. This year, in light of the very high prices, we are concentrating on handing out food.

Cyclone Nargis: an emergency operation

Action Against Hunger emergency programmes in Burma's Irrawaddy delta have been ongoing since Cyclone Nargis, one of the worst cyclones to hit the region in recent years. An emergency team was immediately sent to the affected areas to reinforce Action Against Hunger's teams already present on the ground. At the same time, an emergency appeal was launched to support our relief efforts. The needs were enormous and the logistical challenges of the aid response huge. Here we revisit the emergency operation.



Action Against Hunger teams manage to bring the first international relief supplies (10 tonnes of rice and water purification tablets) into a region where no other NGO is at work.

Action Against Hunger has been present in Rangoon and in the north of Burma, since 1994. Our teams on the ground directly witnessed the extent of the cyclone which hit Burma on the 2nd of May. The full extent of the destruction caused by the cyclone became apparent the following day: in the Irrawaddy delta, trees were uprooted, roofs blown away and fragile dwellings completely destroyed. Humanitarian workers could really only confirm the devastation and Action Against Hunger teams from throughout the country were called in to help with the emergency.

First international aid

Four days later, a team of three Action Against Hunger experts arrived in the Bogale region, a badly hit area, where no other aid agencies were yet present. The needs were immense with survivors lacking access to basic necessities such as food, shelter and medicine. As Action Against Hunger's Richard explains: "Just two days after arriving in Bogale, when there still wasn't any electricity supply, the first convoy arrived to Bogale, carrying relief supplies including food rations, water treatment products and buckets. The relief supplies had been transported via truck from Rangoon. We were therefore able to respond quickly!" This was the first convoy of international aid to arrive in the area carrying 10 tonnes of rice as well as water purification tablets. However, the route quickly became impassable with many bridges unable to bear heavy trucks. A bridge collapsed on the main road from Rangoon to Bogale and our teams had to use alternative means of transport to get our relief supplies to the affected areas. Boats needed

to be found in order to transport the relief supplies.

A logistical emergency...

The logistical challenges of the relief effort were huge: negotiating for lorries and boats, fuel to power them and people to load and unload relief supplies, finding warehouses and forklift trucks; recruiting local workers. Action Against Hunger's teams on the ground would not have been able to carry out all these tasks in such a short period of time without extra staff members to reinforce the existing team in Burma, as they were already very busy with other ongoing humanitarian programmes in the country. Ten specialist aid workers from Action Against Hunger's emergency response unit arrived in Rangoon several days after the cyclone struck. The reinforced team managed to tie up the logistical chain in under a week: from clearing planes through customs to handing the rations out to the survivors. Each plane that arrived, almost one every day, and never at the scheduled time, presented a new logistical challenge. A large part of the logistical success of this relief operation was thanks to our national staff, who were for a long time the only people allowed to access the areas hit by the cyclone.

... and administrative sloth

It was over a month after the disaster, before foreign workers were finally allowed to enter the affected areas. Even then, individual and conditional authorisation was still needed for each placement. Only then were they allowed to access the affected areas to supervise and support the teams, carry out surveys, record the extent of the needs and launch programmes aimed at supporting survivors to rebuild their lives after the emergency.

Today, Action Against Hunger is helping nearly 70,000 people in the Irrawaddy delta. However, more

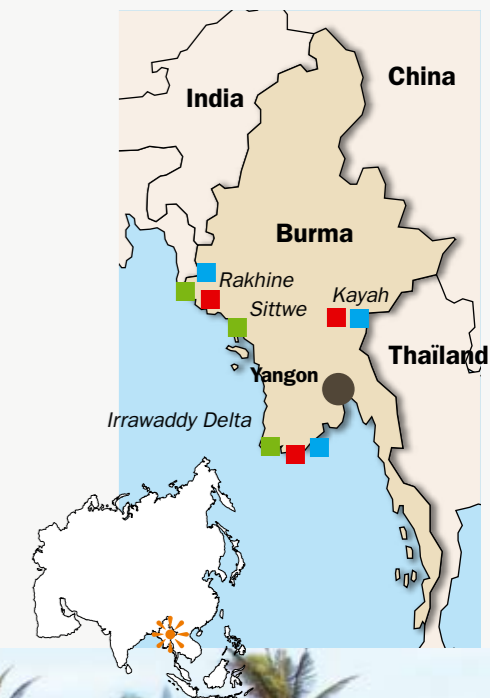
than 2 million people were affected and almost half had still not received any significant international help one month after the cyclone.

Much more remains to be done.

Raphael de Bengy

Burma
 Population: 49 million inhabitants (2007)
 Life expectancy: 60.5 years (2004)
 Human Development Index: 130th out of 177 worldwide (2005)
 GDP per capita: not available

Our programmes
 Water and sanitation
 Nutrition and health
 Food security



Cyclone Nargis caused catastrophic destruction in Burma's Irrawaddy delta.

TIMELINE

- 2nd/3rd May: Cyclone Nargis hits the Irrawaddy delta
- 7th May: Three Action Against Hunger experts in water and sanitation, logistics and food security arrive in Bogale
- 9th May: The first Action Against Hunger convoy of international aid reaches Bogale
- 10th May: Seven members of Action Against Hunger emergency response team arrive in Rangoon
- 12th May: Distribution starts in Bogale
- 23rd May: UN Secretary General Ban-Ki-Moon receives permission from General Tan-Shwe to allow foreign humanitarian workers into the areas hit by Cyclone Nargis
- 3rd June: Finally given official authorisation to work in the field, three foreign aid workers leave for Bogale and Pyapon
- Mid-June: Eight more foreign aid workers are allowed into Bogale, Pyapon and the south coast

Nepal: a population suffers in silence

In the heart of the Himalayas, a population silently suffers from a nutritional crisis. Helping this tiny proportion of the Nepalese population, who are almost completely isolated from the rest of the world, presents a difficult logistical challenge. Action Against Hunger has been implementing aid programmes in these areas for two years. This operation is now in danger...



After many days walking through mountainous terrain, this mother and her malnourished child arrive at Action Against Hunger's feeding centre. Her child is immediately looked after by our nutritionists.

When Pooja and his mother arrive at Action Against Hunger's therapeutic feeding centre in the small village of Jodepane, they were exhausted after a day and half's walk through mountainous terrain. The little boy was clearly suffering from acute malnutrition and was immediately taken in and treated by Action Against Hunger nutritionists.

The inhabitants of this area used to live in virtual self-sufficiency, but this delicate balance has been upset by the war which has further isolated the region, and by wors-


ening climatic conditions, notably recurrent drought. The harvest is not good this year; it is less than 40% of last year's. The impact on the already vulnerable population is immediate: more than one in four children suffer from acute malnutrition and need urgent treatment.

Every two weeks, families congregate at a distribution point to have their children examined and to receive a therapeutic food ration. Children receive this treatment for around three months. In the period between January and June 2008, Action Against Hunger treated over

300 children suffering from acute malnutrition.

Action Against Hunger's teams in the country and at the headquarters are battling to ensure that these vital nutritional programmes are maintained despite the spiralling cost of food.

If these programmes ceased, what would we say to Pooja's mother when she says: "we haven't got enough food or money? We've got a big problem."

Is it only her problem? 

The yearly hunger season

Every year, away from the headlines, millions of the rural poor suffer from predictable and preventable seasonal hunger



Zara with her children in Guidan Koura, Niger.

In Guidan Koura, a typical village in Niger's semi-desert region, we meet a farmer called Zara. Her story tells the tale that many of the world's poor face on a regular basis. With six children to feed, Zara's battle is daily, as she struggles to find money and food. "My farm is small," Zara says, "more like a garden. And the soil is poor. It gives us no more than two months' worth of millet – I a good year – for my family. We are farmers, yes, but what we can grow is not enough." So Zara looks for additional work to earn the money her family needs to be able to eat for the rest of the year. It is during the annual 'hunger season', when food is most scarce and prices are highest, that her family feels it most, with one or two thin meals of watery porridge a day. It is hard to conceive that for almost half of the year, despite her best efforts, Zara is unable to even come close to meeting her family's daily nutritional requirements.

With the severity of the present global food crisis, it is no longer possible to keep ignoring the facts.


Contrary to much belief, hunger is not only taking place after a natural disaster or a devastating conflict. Every year, periods of severe hunger occur not at random, but in known and predictable cycles. This is what we call 'seasonal hunger'.

The sad fact is that Zara's story is not unique. For millions of the world's poor, hunger is a mind numbing reality repeating itself annually.

Seven out of ten of the world's poorest families live in rural areas and survive by working the land. For them, hunger is the undignified reality that affects their household year after year during a period known as the 'hunger gap', when food from the previous year's stock has dwindled and the scarce supply of food on the market causes food prices to rise.

At the current rate of progress, few countries are on track to meet the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) targets by the 2015 deadline, the first of which endeavours to end poverty and hunger. 'More' development needs to be combined with

'smart' development, if significant changes are to be made and the root causes of global hunger eliminated. By 'smart' development we refer to the identification of approaches and leverage points that can increase the impact of money spent on the various MDG targets.

For example, Action Against Hunger has developed simple initiatives to support families and prevent them from selling vital assets that may compromise future harvests. A farmer collective in a village in Malawi plant soybean seeds provided by Action Against Hunger to support those in the village unable to feed their family in the most critical months of the year. This benefits some eighty people in the village and demonstrates how simple strategies implemented in partnership with local groups can prove successful in the fight against seasonal hunger. 

Seasons of Hunger

Action Against Hunger's latest book titled *Seasons of hunger: fighting cycles of quiet starvation among the rural poor*, published by Pluto Press, explores why the world does not react to a crisis that we know will continue year after year. This hidden hunger pushes millions of children to the brink of starvation. The book argues that addressing predictable hunger is key if the Millennium Development Goals are to be achieved, and in turn millions of young lives saved. **To order a copy, please call 020 8293 6190 or visit www.plutobooks.com**



SUBWAY® Picnic Rocks

Action Against Hunger's music festivals raises £55,000



The first ever SUBWAY® Picnic Rocks music festival organised by Action Against Hunger, raised over £55,000 for the fight against hunger and malnutrition worldwide. On the 5th of July some 2,400 music lovers picnicked in the sunshine of Clapham Common and enjoyed great performances from Amy MacDonald, The Holloways, The Metros, The Noisettes, Open Room, The 13, Shlomo, Levi Roots and Guilty pleasures.

"I am pleased to be supporting Action Against Hunger by having a great day out at the Picnic Rocks whilst contributing to something far more important – helping save the lives of adults and children who are needlessly dying because of lack of water," commented Amy MacDonald.

All the staging costs and the entire event were covered by the SUBWAY® stores and thus, every penny that was raised went directly to Action



Subway's team of staff.

Against Hunger. We would like to thank the SUBWAY® chain for all their support during this exciting and successful partnership.

If you are organising an event to raise money for Action Against Hunger we would like to hear from you. Please contact c.kahmann@aahuk.org



Amy MacDonald at Subway Picnic Rocks

Making a difference in Liberia

An interview with Simon Kossoff, Managing Director of Carluccio's PLC, who recently visited Action Against Hunger's programmes in Monrovia, Liberia.

In August 2007, Action Against Hunger and Carluccio's PLC embarked on a partnership that has now raised over £177,000 towards Action Against Hunger's life-saving programmes worldwide. Funds are being partly used to help Action Against Hunger's work in Monrovia, Liberia, where more than 12,500 children under the age of five are currently at risk of acute malnutrition.

Simon, why does Carluccio's support Action Against Hunger?

I always wanted the team at Carluccio's to work together on something important that was outside the activity of the company. The connection between the privilege of eating as leisure and supporting a

charity focused on helping the hungry is a compelling one which Action Against Hunger has seen and which we are delighted to support.

You recently visited the charity's nutrition programme in Liberia funded by the money raised by Carluccio's. Could you tell us a little bit about your experience?

I had never visited anywhere in such dire need of help before my visit to Liberia. One always thinks of this kind of desperation as a function of climate or geography and I was shocked to find a country so devastated over a very short period by politics and war. Nonetheless in the middle of this desperation the welcome afforded by the people we met and the selfless work of the Action Against Hunger team will remain with me. Visits to Action Against Hunger's therapeutic feeding centre and the slums of West-



Carluccio's Simon Kossoff with children from the Painsville community, Monrovia.

point particularly left the impression of both how poor the people are and also how basic the needs are.

What is the one thing that you would take from your trip?

In the end two small boys will be my abiding memory. John John, a tiny baby desperately ill at home in Westpoint, and Madison a baby boy cured of malnutrition at the centre we support. (see page 5)

In short

Turning wine into water

On the 8th of March 2008, a blend of the UK's top chefs, restaurateurs and sommeliers teamed up at leading London restaurant, 1 Lombard Street, and turned wine into water for thousands of mal-

nourished children and families around the world, raising a fantastic £79,000 for Action Against Hunger.

Cartier Love Charity Bracelet

Cartier UK is committing a percentage of the proceeds from 2008 Love Charity bracelet to Action Against Hunger to support our programmes worldwide.

The bracelet was launched by celebrated actress Rosamund Pike. *"I have supported Action Against Hunger for many years and am really excited that they have been chosen as the beneficiary of Cartier's love bracelet proceeds this year. They*

work tirelessly where others fear to tread. Their goals are not just to provide aid in the short term, but to develop long-term solutions to hunger," said Rosamund Pike at the launch. We would like to thank Cartier for their support.



Rosamund Pike at the launch of the love bracelet



John Campbell, Herbert Berger, Raymond Blanc, Shane Osborn.

In Memoriam Giving

When a cause has really touched someone's life, relatives or friends often wish to commemorate them in a special way.

One way of doing this is to request that a donation be made to a charity of their choice, in place of flowers at a funeral. Most undertakers will organise this as part of their service, but donations can also be made through the relatives, or directly to Action Against Hunger. Where we are given details, we will write to thank individual donors for their kind and generous act, and we will contact the next of kin to let them know the names of those who have paid tribute in this manner.

Sometimes, friends and relatives wish to mark an occasion as a lasting tribute to someone they wish to remember – for example by making a donation on their birthday every year. To meet this wish we can establish a Tribute Fund in their name - a marvelous way to create a lasting memory of someone special.

All gifts donated will be used in the best way to support our work.



Ivan Clarke

If you would like to mark a special occasion with a commemorative gift or to discuss In Memoriam gifts or

Tribute Funds please contact Ivan Clarke on 0208 293 6139 or email i.clarke@aahuk.org